GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2313
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
MOBILITY LICENCES
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Telecom Policy (NTP) 99 had been diluted while awarding limited Mobility WLL Licences;

(b) if so, whether Telecom operation without tender bid simply based on first-come-first served policy has been entertained in any part of the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether for having Limited Mobility Licences, the opportunity of the Government to get more prices in the aforesaid licences has been substantially reduced;

(e) if so, whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have adversely affected in the competitions due to limited mobility; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c) No, Sir. As envisaged in NTP 99, based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the Government announced unrestricted entry subject to fulfillment of entry conditions, for provision of Basic Telephone Services, with inter-alia use of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) as an access technology including with usage of hand-held telephone sets by the subscribers within the Short Distance Charging Area. Therefore, the question of adopting a bidding process did not arise. Further, the allocation of frequency spectrum even in the past has been based on processing of applications, as and when received. In this case the actual allocation of spectrum will be made in stages specifically linked to performance and subject to payment of prescribed fees.

(d) to (f) Provision of limited mobility with WLL is not outside the ambit of Basic Service provision and the same is to be provided as part of the Basic Service Licence only. While VSNL is essentially providing Internal Long Distance voice and data services, MTNL is already providing Basic Services with WLL and limited mobility in its service areas. Therefore, the question of any loss does not arise.